

REMARKS

Claims 4-14 and 16-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 15 have previously been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 4-14, 16-21 and 23-28 have been allowed without the necessity of amendments. The Examiner's indication of allowability of these claims is noted with appreciation.

Claim 22 has been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Faberman et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,978,236 in view of Brand et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,901,057 for reasons stated on pages 2-4 of the Office Action (Paper No. 24). While Applicants disagree with the Examiner's assessment for reasons discussed in the Amendment filed on October 2, 2003, claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of allowance of claims 4-14, 16-21 and 23-28 in order to render the rejection moot and to place the application in condition for allowance.

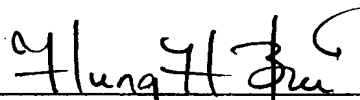
In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600. Applicants respectfully reserve all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any or all previously claimed limitations/features which have been amended or canceled, or to any or all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicants have no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of the disclosed invention to the public.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 500.38034CX1), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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